Wages of casual labourers in BSNL

*116. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the wages paid to the casual labourers employed in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) whether any all India wages have been determined and are being paid as per Government orders; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Casual Labourers with Temporary Status are entitled to daily wages with reference to minimum of the pay scale of a regular Group 'D' official including DA, HRA, CCA and are also entitled for annual increments of the Pay Scale.

Casual Labourers without Temporary Status are entitled for daily wages at the rate of l/30th of pay at the minimum of the relevant pay scale plus Dearness Allowance for work of 8 hours wherever engaged for work of regular nature. In case of casual labour engaged in intermittent or seasonal work, the casual labourers are entitled for wages as per the rates prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act.

(b) In view of (a) above, orders for all India Wages already exist.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, not applicable.

Depletion of ground water level

*117. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the data provided by NASA satellite recorder showing depletion of groundwater level in northern India by as much as a foot per year;

(b) whether 70 per cent of India's irrigation needs and 80 per cent of domestic water supplies are now fully dependent on groundwater resources;

(c) whether Government would consider establishment of an agency like the Tennessee Valley Authority in US in the Brahmaputra basin to tap the abundant water resource in the North-East; and

(d) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) In the article titled 'Satellite-based estimates of groundwater depletion in India' published in August, 2009 issue of scientific journal 'Nature' it has been indicated that groundwater is being depleted at a mean rate of 4.0 ± 1.0 cm yr^{-1} equivalent height of water (17.7 ± 4.5 km^3 yr^{-1}) over the Indian States of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana (including Delhi).